

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 2

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (original) A post-to-beam connector for post and beam furniture systems of the type having a plurality of overhead beams with slots extending along uppermost and lowermost faces thereof, and a plurality of vertical posts having at least one outwardly extending flange having an end face with a vertical slot extending therealong, comprising:

an elongate T-shaped central portion adapted to be attached to an end of an associated one of the beams, and configured to be closely received in the slot in the upper portion of an associated one of the posts;

upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being shaped for close reception in the slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of the associated beam; said upper and lower key portions including horizontally extending fastener apertures therethrough; and

a pair of T-fasteners having shank portions thereof mounted in said fastener apertures in said upper and lower key portions, and T-shaped nut portions thereof threadedly connected

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 3

with said shank portions, and shaped to be closely received in the slot of the associated post, such that tightening said T-fasteners draws the end of the one beam and the one post together to securely, yet detachably, interconnect the same.

Claim 31 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 30, including:

an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of the one post to locate and retain one beam at the upper portion of the one post.

Claim 32 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 31, wherein:

said T-fasteners include allen head bolts.

Claim 33 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 32, wherein:

said central portion includes a plurality of laterally extending vertically spaced apart fastener apertures.

Claim 34 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 33, including:

a plurality of fasteners extending through said fastener apertures for attaching said post-to-beam connector to the end of the one beam.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 4

Claims 35-78 (canceled)

Claim 79 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, comprising:

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with the opposite ends of said overhead beams to support said beams at a predetermined elevation above average user height; at least one of said posts having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong; at least one of said posts having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slots of aligned pairs of said flanges on said posts to support said beams on said posts at said predetermined elevation; and wherein

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 5

at least one of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting therewith one of said beam-to-post connectors.

Claims 80-81 (canceled)

Claim 82 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, comprising:

a plurality of horizontal beams, each having opposite ends;

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with the opposite ends of said beams to support said beams at a predetermined elevation; at least one of said posts having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong; at least one of said posts having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 6

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slots of aligned pairs of said flanges on said posts to support said beams on said posts at said predetermined elevation;

a plurality of partition accessories to equip said furniture system, each configured differently to customize said furniture system for various users, and having a mount portion thereof detachably retained in said slot of one of said posts; and wherein

at least one of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a T-shaped hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong;

each of said slots in said posts and said beams is generally similar in size and shape to receive the mount portion of said accessories therein; and

said partition accessories include an external wire manager with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 83 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 82, wherein:

said partition accessories include an in-fill panel with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 84 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 83, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 7

said partition accessories include a white board with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 85 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 84, wherein:

said partition accessories include a workstation light with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 86 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 85, wherein:

at least one of said beams has an uppermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending therealong, and a lowermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors has key portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of said one of said beams.

Claim 87 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 86, wherein:

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors includes an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of an adjacent one of said posts to locate and positively retain an associated one of said beams at said predetermined elevation.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 8

Claim 88 (canceled)

Claim 89 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, comprising:

a plurality of horizontal beams, each having opposite ends;

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with the opposite ends of said beams to support said beams at a predetermined elevation; at least one of said posts having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong; at least one of said posts having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slots of aligned pairs of said flanges on said posts to support said beams on said posts at said predetermined elevation;

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 9

a plurality of partition accessories to equip said furniture system, each configured differently to customize said furniture system for various users, and having a mount portion thereof detachably retained in said slot of one of said posts; and wherein

at least one of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting therewith one of said beam-to-post connectors.

Claims 90-93 (canceled)

Claim 94 (currently amended) In a post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, the improvement comprising:

at least one horizontal beam having opposite ends;

at least two vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with an associated one of the opposite ends of said horizontal beam to support said beam at a predetermined elevation; said posts each having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 10

at least two beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beam, and detachably retained in said slots of an aligned pair of said flanges on said posts to support said beam on said posts at said predetermined elevation; and wherein

said beam includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting the same with one of said beam-to-post connectors.

Claims 95-115 (canceled)

Claim 116 (currently amended) ~~A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 100, wherein:~~ A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, comprising:
a plurality of vertical posts having lower ends thereof configured to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and being arranged in a laterally spaced apart fashion; at least one of said posts having a cruciform plan shape defined in part by a central portion, and four, substantially identical flanges extending outwardly from said central portion in a mutually perpendicular relationship to define triangularly-shaped spaces between adjacent ones of said flanges; each of said flanges having a generally flat end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong, and a predetermined width measured between opposite sidewalls of said flanges;

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 11

a plurality of horizontal beams having opposite ends thereof operably connected with said posts in a predetermined pattern to divide the open office space into a plurality of individual workstations; at least one of said beams having a generally rectangular shape defined in part by opposite sidewalls spaced apart a predetermined width which is generally commensurate with said predetermined width of said flanges on said one post, such that said one beam mates with any one of said flanges along the length thereof in a flush relationship; at least one beam-to-post connector having a first portion thereof operably connected with one end of said one beam, and a second portion thereof detachably retained in said slot in one of said flanges on said one post for supporting said one beam at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said one post; and wherein

said one beam includes at least one slot extending longitudinally therealong, shaped substantially similar to said slots on said flanges of said one post; and

said first portion of said beam-to-post connector has at least a portion thereof disposed in said one beam slot.

Claim 117 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 116, wherein:

said slot on said one beam defines a first beam slot;

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 12

said one beam includes a lowermost face with a second beam slot extending centrally therealong; and

said first portion of said beam-to-post connector has at least a portion thereof disposed in said second beam slot.

Claim 118 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 117, wherein:

said one beam includes a third beam slot extending along one of the sidewalls of said one beam;

said one beam includes a fourth beam slot extending along an opposite one of the sidewalls of said one beam; and

said first beam slot, said second beam slot, said third beam slot, said fourth beam slot, and said slots on said flanges of said one post each have a generally T-shaped configuration which is similar in size and shape to receive a common fastener therein.

Claims 119-120

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 13

Claim 121 (currently amended) ~~A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim~~

~~100, including:~~ A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space,
comprising:

a plurality of vertical posts having lower ends thereof configured to be abuttingly
supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and being arranged in a laterally spaced
apart fashion; at least one of said posts having a cruciform plan shape defined in part by a
central portion, and four, substantially identical flanges extending outwardly from said central
portion in a mutually perpendicular relationship to define triangularly-shaped spaces between
adjacent ones of said flanges; each of said flanges having a generally flat end face with a single
vertical slot extending centrally therealong, and a predetermined width measured between
opposite sidewalls of said flanges;

a plurality of horizontal beams having opposite ends thereof operably connected with
said posts in a predetermined pattern to divide the open office space into a plurality of
individual workstations; at least one of said beams having a generally rectangular shape
defined in part by opposite sidewalls spaced apart a predetermined width which is generally
commensurate with said predetermined width of said flanges on said one post, such that said
one beam mates with any one of said flanges along the length thereof in a flush relationship;

at least one beam-to-post connector having a first portion thereof operably connected
with one end of said one beam, and a second portion thereof detachably retained in said slot in

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 14

one of said flanges on said one post for supporting said one beam at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said one post; and

an external vertical wire manager detachably supported from said slot on a first one of said flanges on said one post, and extending vertically along a triangularly-shaped space of said one post between said first flange and an adjacent second one of said flanges to house at least a portion of said external vertical wire manager between said first and second flanges.

Claim 122 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 116, including:

an external horizontal wire manager detachably supported from said first beam slot on said one beam, and extending horizontally along said one beam.

Claim 123 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, comprising:

a plurality of vertical posts having lower ends thereof configured to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and being arranged in a laterally spaced apart fashion; at least one of said posts having a Y-shaped plan configuration defined in part by a central portion, and three, substantially identical flanges extending outwardly from said central portion in a generally 120 degree mutual relationship to define triangularly-shaped

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 15

spaces between adjacent ones of said flanges; each of said flanges having a generally flat end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong, and a predetermined width measured between opposite sidewalls of said flanges;

a plurality of horizontal beams having opposite ends thereof operably connected with said posts in a predetermined pattern to divide the open office space into a plurality of individual workstations; at least one of said beams having a generally rectangular shape defined in part by opposite sidewalls spaced apart a predetermined width which is generally commensurate with said predetermined width of said flanges on said one post, such that said one beam mates with any one of said flanges along the length thereof in a flush relationship; and

at least one beam-to-post connector having a first portion thereof operably connected with one end of said one beam, and a second portion thereof detachably retained in said slot in one of said flanges on said one post for supporting said one beam at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said one post.

Claim 124 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 123, including:

a plurality of partition accessories configured to equip said furniture system, and having mounts shaped to be detachably retained in said slot on an associated one of said flanges along

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 16

said one post to support said partition accessories at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said one post.

Claim 125 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 124, wherein:

said one beam includes at least one slot extending longitudinally therealong, shaped substantially similar to said slots on said flanges of said one post to facilitate mounting said partition accessories on both said one post and said one beam at a variety of different locations in the workstations.

Claim 126 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 125, wherein:

said one beam includes an uppermost face with said slot extending centrally therealong;
and

said first portion of said beam-to-post connector has at least a portion thereof disposed in said one beam slot.

Claim 127 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 126, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 17

said slot on said one beam defines a first beam slot;

said one beam includes a lowermost face with a second beam slot extending centrally therealong; and

said first portion of said beam-to-post connector has at least a portion thereof disposed in said second beam slot.

Claim 128 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 127, wherein:

said one beam includes a third beam slot extending along one of the sidewalls of said one beam.

Claim 129 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 128, wherein:

said one beam includes a fourth beam slot extending along an opposite one of the sidewalls of said one beam.

Claim 130 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 129, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 18

said first beam slot, said second beam slot, said third beam slot, said fourth beam slot, and said slots on said flanges of said one post each have a generally T-shaped configuration which is similar in size and shape to receive a common fastener therein.

Claim 131 (canceled)

Claim 132 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 130, including:

an external vertical wire manager detachably supported from said slot on a first one of said flanges on said one post, and extending vertically along one of said triangularly-shaped spaces of said one post between said first flange and an adjacent second one of said flanges to house at least a portion of said external vertical wire manager between said first and second flanges.

Claim 133 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 132, including:

an external horizontal wire manager detachably supported from said first beam slot on said one beam, and extending horizontally along said one beam.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 19

Claim 134 (previously presented) In a post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of vertical posts having lower ends thereof configured to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and being arranged in a laterally spaced apart fashion; said posts having a cruciform plan shape defined in part by a central portion, and four, substantially identical flanges extending outwardly from said central portion in a mutually perpendicular relationship to define triangularly-shaped spaces between adjacent ones of said flanges; each of said flanges having a generally flat end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong, and a predetermined width measured between opposite sidewalls of said flanges;

a plurality of horizontal beams having opposite ends thereof operably connected with said posts in a predetermined pattern to divide the open office space into a plurality of individual workstations; said beams having a generally rectangular shape defined in part by opposite sidewalls spaced apart a predetermined width which is generally commensurate with said predetermined width of said flanges on said posts, such that said beams mate with any one of said flanges along the length thereof in a flush relationship; and

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors having first portions thereof operably connected with the ends of said beams, and second portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 20

said flanges on said posts for supporting said beams at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said posts.

Claim 135 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 134, including:

a plurality of partition accessories configured to equip said furniture system, and having mounts shaped to be detachably retained in said slots on said flanges along said posts to support said partition accessories at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said posts.

Claim 136 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 135, wherein:

said beams include slots extending longitudinally therealong, shaped substantially similar to said slots on said flanges of said posts to facilitate mounting said partition accessories on both said posts and said beams at a variety of different locations in the workstations.

Claim 137 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 136, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 21

said beams include uppermost faces with said slots extending centrally therealong; and
said first portions of said beam-to-post connectors have at least portions thereof
disposed in said second beam slots of said beams.

Claim 138 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim
137, including:

a plurality of vertical wire managers detachably supported from said slots on said
flanges of said posts, and extending vertically along said triangularly-shaped spaces adjacent
flanges on said posts to house at least portions of said external vertical wire managers between
said flanges.

Claim 139 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim
138, including:

a plurality of external horizontal wire managers detachably supported from said first
beam slots on said beams, and extending horizontally therealong.

Claim 140 (previously presented) In a post and beam furniture system for partitioning open
office space, the improvement comprising:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 22

a plurality of vertical posts having lower ends thereof configured to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and being arranged in a laterally spaced apart fashion; said posts having a Y-shaped plan configuration defined in part by a central portion, and three, substantially identical flanges extending outwardly from said central portion in a generally 120 degree mutual relationship to define triangularly-shaped spaces between adjacent ones of said flanges; each of said flanges having a generally flat end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong, and a predetermined width measured between opposite sidewalls of said flanges;

a plurality of horizontal beams having opposite ends thereof operably connected with said posts in a predetermined pattern to divide the open office space into a plurality of individual workstations; said beams having a generally rectangular shape defined in part by opposite sidewalls spaced apart a predetermined width which is generally commensurate with said predetermined width of said flanges on said posts, such that said beams mate with any one of said flanges along the length thereof in a flush relationship; and

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors having first portions thereof operably connected with the ends of said beams, and second portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in said flanges on said posts for supporting said beams at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said posts.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 23

Claim 141 (currently amended) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 140, including:

a plurality of partition accessories configured to equip said furniture system, and having mounts shaped to be detachably retained in said slots on said flanges along said posts to support said ~~partition~~partitions accessories at a variety of different orientations and elevations along said posts.

Claim 142 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 141, wherein:

said beams include slots extending longitudinally therealong, shaped substantially similar to said slots on said flanges of said posts to facilitate mounting said partition accessories on both said posts and said beams at a variety of different locations in the workstations.

Claim 143 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 142, wherein:

said beams include uppermost faces with said slots extending centrally therealong; and
said first portions of said beam-to-post connectors have at least portions thereof disposed in said second beam slots of said beams.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 24

Claim 144 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 143, including:

a plurality of vertical wire managers detachably supported from said slots on said flanges of said posts, and extending vertically along said triangularly-shaped spaces adjacent flanges on said posts to house at least portions of said external vertical wire managers between said flanges.

Claim 145 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system as set forth in claim 144, including:

a plurality of external horizontal wire managers detachably supported from said first beam slots on said beams, and extending horizontally therealong.